

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed November 3, 2003, the Examiner raised a new election of species requirement, identifying five patentably distinct species, as follows:

Species I, drawn to Figure 2.

Species II, drawn to Figure 4.

Species III, drawn to Figure 7.

Species IV, drawn to Fig. 9.

Species V, drawn to Figs. 11-13.

The Examiner also stated that no claims are currently generic.

In response, the Applicant elects Species IV. As a consequence, claims 1-14 and 19-20 are now withdrawn by the Applicant from this application. Applicants presently intend to pursue such claims in one or more divisional applications. Claims 15-18, as previously presented and as currently amended, read upon the elected species. Applicants further have added new claims 21-25, which also read upon the elected species.

This application should now be in condition for substantive examination. The Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Norma E. Henderson, Applicants' Attorney, at 603-225-4334 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

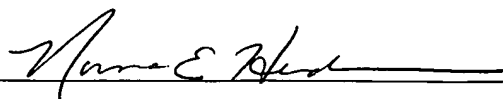
For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hinckley, Allen & Snyder LLP

December 2, 2003

Date

By: 

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Date of Deposit: December 2, 2003

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